

FAQ

What is GENIVI?

GENIVI is a non-profit industry alliance committed to driving the broad adoption of an In-Vehicle Infotainment (IVI) open-source development platform. GENIVI will accomplish this through three top-level activities: aligning requirements, delivering reference implementations and offering certification programs.

What is In-Vehicle Infotainment (IVI)?

IVI covers entertainment and information features and functionality available in automobiles. IVI is a rapidly changing and expanding field within the automotive industry. It covers many types of vehicle infotainment applications including music, news and multimedia, navigation and location services, telephony, internet services and more.

Who is part of the GENIVI Alliance?

GENIVI is open to all organizations engaged in the automotive, consumer electronics, communications, application development and entertainment industries that are interested in the success of IVI systems and related products.

What are GENIVI's goals?

GENIVI's objective is to foster a vibrant open-source IVI community by:

- Delivering a reusable, open-source platform consisting of Linux-based core services, middleware, and open application layer interfaces.
- Engaging developers to deliver compliant applications.
- Sponsoring technical, marketing and compliance programs.

What characterizes an IVI open-source development platform?

The GENIVI open-source platform consists of Linux-based core services, middleware and open application layer interfaces. These are the essential but non-differentiating core elements of the overall IVI solution set. The automobile manufacturers and their suppliers will use this platform as their common underlying framework and add to it their differentiated products and services (the consumer facing applications and interfaces). GENIVI is identifying these common automotive infotainment industry requirements to establish a higher baseline from which to develop products for the common good of the ecosystem.

Will elements such as HMI/user interfaces and their design/styles be included in the GENIVI platform?

The GENIVI IVI platform does not address the highly competitive areas such as user interfaces and logic that

defines the end-user experience. The alliance is built on the notion that user interfaces and logic distinguish products and, thus, should remain in the domain of the vendors who design and deliver the device and software.

How is GENIVI's work accomplished?

The majority of GENIVI's work is conducted through the technical and marketing councils and their respective work groups. The Technical Steering Council develops and monitors the technical working plan of the alliance, including requirement collection and specification development, adherence to IPR policies and processes, testing and release of reference implementations, and adoption and compliance activities. Technical work groups include System Infrastructure, Multimedia CE, Automotive, Mobile Office/Internet and Reference Systems. The Marketing Council develops the alliance marketing plan, manages internal and external communications, and facilitates programs that bring greater awareness to the alliance and its deliverables.

When will the first release of the GENIVI Reference Platform be available?

The first version of the GENIVI platform was released in January 2010 and supported the Intel Atom architecture on the Moblin Linux distribution. The next release is planned for late 2010. It will support both Intel Atom and ARM architectures on top of the MeeGo Linux distribution. A further release is planned for summer 2011 with increased functionality.

What are the main benefits for the automotive industry of a reusable, open-source IVI platform?

A reusable, open-source IVI platform will:

- Speed time to market.
- Accelerate innovation and increase perceived value.
- Reduce development costs dramatically.
- Provide a basis on which to cultivate the IVI ecosystem.
- Provide code transparency and mitigate vendor lock-in.

What are the advantages of open-source solutions over proprietary solutions?

An open-source IVI platform provides three key benefits:

1. A common target for software developers seeking to enter the automotive domain. The current fragmentation means that the automotive OEM must trigger the development and the software developer has to accept that the potential product volume is limited. A consistent platform deployment would address both of these limitations.
2. Multi-sourcing of a consistent but commercialized software platform. GENIVI intends to become the upstream feed for the commercialized products. GENIVI will encourage multiple commercial distributions to provide the 1st tiers and OEM with compliant alternatives.

3. Transparency and an unprecedented level of access during development. A combination of consistency and visibility will enable a structured approach to product validation that will drastically improve efficiency across the value chain.

What is MeeGo, and how does it relate to GENIVI?

MeeGo is an open-source project focused on developing a Linux-based platform for consumer centric devices such as netbooks, handsets, tablets, connected-TVs and IVI. In partnership with GENIVI, MeeGo will act as an independent distribution mechanism for the first GENIVI open-source reference implementations. The combination of MeeGo and the GENIVI code will provide an automotive infotainment reference implementation that takes the best from both the consumer and automotive worlds. The automotive industry will benefit from the developer ecosystem created by the breadth of devices targeted by MeeGo and the community built up around them.

Will GENIVI have a product certification program?

Once GENIVI has delivered specifications and reference implementations, it will define and execute a program that enables member companies to certify products based on the GENIVI platform. This program will document a set of test specifications for use by alliance members.

Will GENIVI license its technology to non-members?

This is under discussion.

Who should join GENIVI?

All organizations engaged in the automotive, consumer electronics, communications, application development and entertainment industries that are invested in the success of IVI systems as well as related products and services.

What are the main benefits of GENIVI membership?

The top benefits available exclusively to GENIVI members are:

1. Members have full access and insight into all work in process, providing a head-start competitive advantage.
2. Active participants influence the technical direction of the alliance through contributions to the development of specifications, reference architectures, implementation guidelines, test suites and compliance/certification programs.
3. Members use released GENIVI specifications and implementation guidelines to reduce development costs and shorten time to market.
4. Members have access to GENIVI test specifications and compliance/certification programs.



GENIVI

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the derivation of the name GENIVI?

GENIVI (pronounced gen-ee-vee) is a concatenation of Geneva, the international city of peace, and the acronym IVI, for In-Vehicle Infotainment, heralding a new era of cooperation among automakers, suppliers and technology providers in the interest of streamlining the development and support of connected services to cars aligned with mobile devices.

How can I join GENIVI Alliance?

Joining is easy. Simply download, sign and return the [member agreement](#) with your payment for the appropriate amount.

Where can I get more information about GENIVI?

You can email questions to our help desk at help@genivi.org

